Juanita S.Dilley
Clover Lick, W. Va.
Pocahontas County
June 24, 1940
Chapter 5 section 1a

SIZE OF FAMILY – *Education, etc.*

I have asked several of the older people of the county if they thought that the pioneer expressed his desire for a large family for practical reasons, and they all agree that he did not. They say that people in those days did not openly talk of such things, but accepted children as a matter of course, something over which they had no control. They say that he did not mind having a large family, just accepted it as the "Lords Will"and thought nothing more of it.

The more children they had the more work could be done, for pioneers taught their children to help with the work just as soon as they were old enough to begin to run errands, and they were taught to do other things as they got older, the girls:to cook, sew, knit, spin and weave, and all the things that they would have to know how to do when they had a house of their own. The father taught, in most cases, the son to do the things that he himself did. Espesially did the son help with the clearing of land, the raising of food, hunting, building fence,etc. They usually depended upon the boys to go to mill. The first fences were made by piling together the brush, limbs and stumps from the clearing.Many people used these fences for a long time, in fact I have seen a few of these as late as 1910.Split rail fence laid in a zig-zag manner were the most common fence used.

While most of the pioneers had large families, there were so many diseases such as diphteria, camp fever, etc. that most of them were not fortunate enough to rear such a large family after all. I find quite a number of large families recorded in Prices History. The largest of thes was the family if Timothy McCarty, a Revolutionary War veteran, who settled on Browns Mountain. He had 20 children, but he was married twice. By his first marriage there were seven sons, all of whom were soldiers in the war if 1812. By his second marriage, there were 13 children. Timothy McCarty is one of the very few Recolutionary War veterans buried in our mountain land.

William and Nancy Wilson Wanless settled on Back Alleghaney and were the parents of nine daughters and seven sons. The daughters were ;

Rachel who married John Logan
Jane " " David McLaughlin of Stony Bottom
Eliza " " Chesley K.K.Moore of Dunmore
Martha " " Henry Nottingham
Nancy Ann " P.Nicholas--went to Minnesota
Matilda " William Cassell
Margaret who died aged 7 years
Mary " " 15 years
Melinda was drowned when a young woman

The sons were; James, Andrew, Nelson, Ralph, Allen and two unnamed who died in infancy. These Wanless brothers were all industrious and became skillful blacksmiths.

Jacob and Mary Brown Waugh were the parents of 15 children but only 5 lived to be grown.

Samuel and Ann McGuire Waugh, among the early settle rs of The Hills, about 1774, were the parents of nine sons and five daughters. The sons were; Rev. John Waugh, Samuel Waugh, Jr., Robert Waugh, a school teacher, William Waugh, Alexander Waugh, Arthur Waugh, Jacob Waugh, a miller and Beverly Waugh, who led the Mount Zion church class for sixteen years. The daughters were:

Elizabeth who married Caleb Knapp,
Rebecca " " Andrew Moore and went to Jacks
Margaret " " Samuel Martin, moved to Iowa.
Mary Ann " Reuben Buzzard " " Iowa.

The other daughters name is not given.

Samuel and Ann Waugh, imbued with the faith and energy so peculiar to the genuine Scotch-Irish, endured all that is implied in rearing a family of fourteen sons and daughters and all living to be adults. The sons all lived to be grown and not one was ever known to use tobacco or ardent spirits in any form. This seems scarcly credible, yet it is asserted to be a pleasing truth. Samuel Waugh was one of the original members of the old Mount Zion Church- one of the strongholds of its denomination for so many years. His history shows that in the face of pioneer hindrances and privations, sons and daughters may be reared that may faithfully serve God and support their country.

Aaron Moore, one of the older sons of Moses Moore the pioneer, hunter and scout, married Catherine Johnson. They were the parents of thirteen children. The sons were, John, James, Samuel, Thomas, Andrew Jackson,

Henry, William Daniel, and George Claiborne. The daughters were Mary, Elizabeth who married William Auldridge of Indian Draft, Catherine who became Mrs, John Burr, Eliza who married Price McComb. Price McComb bought his land from General Alfred Beckley who at one time owned many hundred acres in Pocahontas county. Yesterday I was talking to Alfred Beckley McComb of Huntersville and he told me that the Beckleys at one time owned practically all of the land on Beaver Creek and that not only his father but practically all of the early settlers bought their land from him. General Beckley came there with a party each year to hunt bear, deer and other game. On one of these hunting occasions, a son was born into the home of Price McComb. The General named the son Alfred Beckley McComb and then gave them a twenty dollar bill as a present for the baby. Mr McComb said this was in the year 1859. Malinda Moore married the late Captain William Cochran of Stony Creek. Mary died in early womanhood. "Nine members of this family settled in the woods, and by their efforts more than a thousand acres of wilderness land was cleared and made to produce. It is not easy to appreciate what it cost, weary toil, wear and tear of muscle and bodily vigor, to achieve what they had. Like most of the persons of his time, Aaron Moore was a successful hunter and made it profitable. One of his memorial adventures occurred while on his way to search for the body of his neighbor James Twyman who was drowned in Thorny Creek, January 17,1834, and was not found until Jan.19. As he was threading his way along the snow covered path, his

dog came upon the trail of a panther, and treed it in a lofty pine near the river. He shot the animal and left it where it fell to be attended to later, and then hurried away on his s sorriful duty, canoeing the river at high tide. The body of the drowned man was found stranded on a large rock not far below the mouth of the creek.

When I was going through some of the old wills I found Aaron Moore's will. In it he made this provision: " That my sons be taught to read and write, and that my daughters be taught to read." The will was dated December 4, 1837 and was probated in 1838. Aaron Moore himself could not write because the will is signed with his mark.

Thomas Moore was a noted rail splitter and fence builder. Although he never married, he opened up a nice farm on Back Alleghany.

In the will of James Waugh Jr. of The Hills, ~~that~~ he provides that land be sold and the proceeds used to educate his children. To sell land to educate children seems a strange doctrine for that day and time. Also he wills that his rifle gun be kept for the entire use of his plantation . That speaks of a day when a good muzzle loading rifle was a most importan part of every man's equipment. It meant a good title to land, a defense against the savage, and food for the family. Most of these early settlers were as much interested in education as in religion and they began to provide for it either by building schools or by hiring teachers to come to their homes to teach, almost as soon as they were well established.

Another large family was that of Charles L. and Mary McLaughlin Moore of Browns Creek. It consisted of seven sons and seven daughters all of whom lived to adulthood. The sons were Floyd-now dead, Elehu-of Huntersville, Elmer-now dead, Frank-a barber in Marlinton, Fred-now dead, French-dead, and Vernon of California. Charles L. Moore was a Confederate veteran. His oldest son Floyd served in the Spanish American War and a younger son Fred served in the World War, yet all of them returned and were buried in the same cemetery. The Veteran's Graves Project gave me this information and they say this is the only case they have found in the county, so far, where three members of the same family served in three different wars and yet were buried together. French was also enlisted in the World war but did not go across and was buried in another cemetery.

The daughters were Mrs. Nola Ginger of Huntersville, Mrs. Lula Barlow, Mrs. Grace O'Connell, Mrs Lucy Clark of Clarks Hotel in Marlinton, Blanch, Madge and Beulah.

The largest family that I have any knowledge of is that of Clark and Phebe Mann of Indian Draft. There were 17 children in this family, sixteen of whom lived to be grown, the other one was an unnamed infant. The sons were Walter of Elray, J.O. of Poage Lane, Frank of Virginia, Mack of Indian Draft, all successful farmers, Hammond-dead, Billie-dead, and Sam. The daughters were Mrs. Maggie McLaughlin of Marlinton, Mrs. Mattie A. Poage of Poage Lane, Mrs Minnie Dinkle of Indian Draf

Mrs. Susie Criser-dead, Mrs. Mae Robb of Clarksburg, Mrs. Lillie Courtney of Huntingtdn, Mrs. Betty Kidd, Mrs. Daisy Kidd and Mrs. Christelle Harter , all of Covington, Va. (I personally know this family as my step-grandmother, Mrs. Mattie A. Poage was one of them.)

From-- History of Pocahontas
unless otherwise stated

Clark McCloud was the father of 21 children but he was married twice. There are several instances where a man had 20 or more children but not to a single marriage.

EARLY LIFE AND OCCUPATIONS

The men and women who crossed the mountains to find homes of their own in the wooded valleys of Pocahontas County sentenced themselves to an existence of great rigor and hardship. They obtained their homes, to be sure, but that initial achievement probably was the easiest part of the battle. Life during the first years in the new land was a relentless struggle against the constant threats of starvation, disease, and the counter attacks of resentful savages.

The home was the center of all the pioneer's thoughts and activities. There were no trades nor industries that were not a part of the home life. The ambition of land-hungry men to see broad acres on every side precluded the development of community life and shut each household off into a world of its own. Within this self-imposed prison the frontiersman labored and dreamed of a day when he might ride proudly as one of the landed gentlemen of the new country.

The size and comfort of the pioneer home was limited not by the desires or needs of the family so much as by the skill and manpower available. The men frequently went out alone or in small parties to prospect for their farm sites. The cabins they built were the products of forest trees and their own strength and skill with the few tools which they brought with them. Logs were notched so that they fit together without any other fastening. To form a roof, clapboards about four feet long were split from red or white oak and laid across the rafters. Since nails were a luxury even in the eastern settlements, the clapboard roof was held in place by the weight of long poles,